

the family of the late Anthony J. Delmonte, and join with me in honoring his life and legacy.

#### HONORING CHRIS LOWERY

##### HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2013*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chris Lowery of Batesville, Indiana on being selected by Governor Mike Pence to chair the Indiana Region 9 Works Council.

Chris has worked at Hillenbrand, Inc. for 19 years, currently as the Director of Public Policy and Engagement. A graduate of Indiana University, Chris previously was the Executive Director of the Association of Indiana Counties as well as an aide to former Indiana Governor Robert Orr and Senator Dan Quayle. Chris has also dedicated his time to education serving on the Batesville Community School Corporation's Board of Trustees as President and founding the Batesville Community Education Foundation.

Chris' leadership in business and education will greatly benefit Hoosiers as he serves as Chair of the Indiana Region 9 Works Council. The Indiana Works Council, created by Governor Pence, is responsible for submitting evaluations of the career, technical and vocational education opportunities that will be used to better prepare high school students for entering the workforce.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in congratulating Chris Lowery on having been selected to serve the State of Indiana as Chair of the Indiana Region 9 Works Council.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

##### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2013*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,747,370,534,090.62. We've added \$6,120,493,485,177.54 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.1 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT OF OREGON

##### HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2013*

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial this Saturday in Washington, DC through Honor Flight of Oregon. On behalf of a grateful State and country, we welcome these heroes to the Nation's Capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are as follows: Kenneth W. Jacobsen, U.S. Army Air Force; Raymond Smith, U.S. Army Air Force; Virgil E. Trick, U.S. Army Air Force; Charles Williamson, U.S. Army Air Force; Victor H. Banke, U.S. Army; David G. Blattner, U.S. Army; Merle L. Brandsrud, U.S. Army; Gerald J. Broadhurst, U.S. Army; Homer P. Farley, U.S. Army; Donald P. Hancock, U.S. Army; Donald E. Hill, U.S. Army; Arnold J. Jensen, U.S. Army; Ralph E. Johnson, U.S. Army; Jack P. Mills, U.S. Army; William E. Thompson, U.S. Army; William C. Upham, U.S. Army; William A. Vorisek, U.S. Army; Loyd A. Wiltermood, U.S. Army; Vincent R. Gersch, U.S. Marines; Richard R. Harlow, U.S. Marines; Edward L. Killeen, U.S. Marines; Robert J. Klink, U.S. Marines; Robert J. Pattock, U.S. Marines; Benjamin Asquith, Jr., U.S. Navy; Bruce Bennett, U.S. Navy; Louis W. Boesel, U.S. Navy; Eugene S. Clift, U.S. Navy; Rodney L. Downey, U.S. Navy; John B. Dowty, U.S. Navy; Warren J. Dunn, U.S. Navy; Joyce L. Evans, U.S. Navy; Ross H. Flintjier, U.S. Navy; Victor B. Fryer, U.S. Navy; Leonard S. Gislser, U.S. Navy; B. Bruce Huffman, U.S. Navy; Robert L. Jensen, U.S. Navy; Howard D. Kyle, U.S. Navy; Arthur E. Mosher, U.S. Navy; Theodore M. Phillips, U.S. Navy; Richard B. Royse, U.S. Navy; Willard G. Scott, U.S. Navy; Glenndon L. Stam, U.S. Navy; Raymond L. Tompkins, U.S. Navy; Richard H. Wemhoener, U.S. Navy; Charles R. Westerberg, U.S. Navy; Robert C. White, U.S. Navy; Frank L. Woodrum, U.S. Navy; Henry C. Zweigart, U.S. Navy; Richard W. Miller, U.S. Navy Reserves; Cherri P. Gregory, U.S. Navy—WAVES.

These 50 heroes join more than 98,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have journeyed from their home States to Washington, DC to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I especially want to recognize and thank Gail Yakopatz for her tireless work as president of Honor Flight of Oregon.

#### HONORING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE FRESNO VETERANS HOME OF CALIFORNIA

##### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2013*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Central California Veterans Home Support Foundation and the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) upon the grand opening of the California Veterans Home in Fresno. This veterans' home is not simply a brick and mortar building. This home is a promise we have made to the veterans of the San Joaquin Val-

ley, and at long last we are keeping our promise.

Veterans in the San Joaquin Valley face great challenges every day. Tragically, more than 600 veterans in Fresno and Madera Counties go to sleep every night without a roof over their head. Guided by the belief that no man or woman who wore the uniform of the United States military should ever experience the scourge of homelessness, we set a goal of building a home to serve the needs of the veterans in the San Joaquin Valley.

Over the years, I have worked closely with the Central California Veterans Home Foundation (CCVHF), local veteran Charlie Waters and countless other volunteers and veteran advocates to plan, strategize, obtain funds and jump hurdles to be where we are today. Throughout the years, I have had many conversations with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to keep the funding in place for this home and with Cal Vet to break ground and begin construction.

This gorgeous home at 2811 West California Avenue is located in my 16th Congressional District in Southwest Fresno and is a 300 bed facility with state-of-the-art design and architecture. The facility is bringing employment to people in the Central Valley and security to our veterans who desire to live out the rest of their life with great honor and pride.

In May 2010 we were all at the future site of the home breaking ground on this beautiful piece of property. We shoveled dirt and we anxiously looked forward to this day with a great desire to quickly help the many veterans who would benefit from this home. However as we celebrate this grand occasion, we should pause to remember three dedicated veteran leaders from the foundation who were with us from the beginning and have since passed away. During the fight for the home, we lost George Sinopoli in 2006, Charles "Chuck" Parnell just a few months after we broke ground in 2010, and Bill Dietzel earlier this year. These great veterans worked closely with me and fought the great fight for this home. Their hard work and dedication will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, the opening of the California Veterans Home in Fresno is truly a long-awaited and special event. I rise today to commend and congratulate CalVet, the VA, the Central California Veterans Home Foundation and all the organizations and individuals that have made this the opening possible. I invite my colleagues to join in wishing the home and its future residents great success.

#### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

##### HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2013*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF TEÓFILO "AARÓN" VARGAS SEIN

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize the life and service of Teófilo "Aarón" Vargas Sein, Spiritual Leader and President of the church Congregación Mita, Inc.

Aarón was born on October 23, 1921 in Hatillo, Puerto Rico. Before his birth, his mother, Concepción Sein, suffered from a difficult